

Claims

1. A cover (24) for a welding wire container (10, 12), having an upper surface (26) provided with a slot (32) through which the welding wire (16) can be withdrawn from the container, and having spacing means (34) which define an inner portion (36) and an outer portion (38) of the slot such that welding wire extending through the inner portion of the slot is held spaced from welding wire extending through the outer portion of the slot.
2. The cover of claim 1, characterized in that the spacing means (34) is formed such as its spacing effect can be overcome by the welding wire.
3. The cover of claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the spacing means (34) is attached to the cover (24) so as to be at least partially detachable from the cover.
4. The cover of any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the spacing means is formed so as to be destructible.
5. The cover of any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the spacing means (24) is formed so as to be deflectable such that the welding wire is allowed to pass the spacing means when the spacing means is in a deflected condition.
6. The cover of any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the spacing means (24) is formed from an adhesive strip.
7. The cover of any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the spacing means (24) is formed from a label attached to the cover.
8. The cover of claim 6 or claim 7, characterized in that the spacing means (24) is formed from an inner label and an outer label.
9. The cover of claim 8, characterized in that the inner and outer labels each have an opening for the welding wire.

10. The cover of claim 6, characterized in that the spacing means (24) is formed from a single adhesive strip.

11. The cover of any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the spacing means (24) is a plate attached to the upper surface (26) of the cover (24).

5 12. The cover of claim 11, characterized in that the plate is attached to the upper surface of the cover on one side of the slot (32), only.

13. The cover of any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the spacing means (34) consists of plastics.

10 14. The cover of claim 1, characterized in that the spacing means consists of at least one narrow portion of the slot at which the edges of the slot are arranged opposite each other with a distance which is smaller than the diameter of the welding wire.

15. The cover of any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the slot (32) extends from an edge of the cover towards the center and beyond the center.

15 16. The cover of any of the preceding claims, characterized in that an elevated portion (30) is provided in the center of the cover.

17. The cover of claim 16, characterized in that the elevated portion has the shape of a truncated cone.

20 18. The cover of claim 16, characterized in that the elevated portion has the shape of a truncated pyramid (30).

19. The cover of claim 18, characterized in that the slot (32) crosses one side surface and the top surface of the truncated pyramid and extends over almost the entire opposite side surface of the truncated pyramid.

25 20. The cover of any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the slot (32) has a width of approximately 20 mm.

21. A welding wire container having a body for accommodation of a welding wire coil, and an upper opening through which welding wire can be withdrawn from the body, and having a spacing means which allows to separate a welding wire portion currently withdrawn from a welding wire portion leading to another welding wire container.

22. The welding wire container of claim 21, characterized that the spacing means is provided on a cover according to any of claims 1 to 20.

23. The welding wire container of claim 21, characterized in that the spacing means is arranged inside the body closed to the opening.